Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 /065 W

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R 220922Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8869

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL KUALA LUMPUR 0406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, SN, ASEAN SUBJ: RAZAK-LEE TALKS

- 1. DURING A CALL ON ZAKARIA BIN HAJI MOHAMED ALI, HASHIM SULTAN'S REPLACEMENT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I ASKED HOW THE TALKS HAD GONE WITH SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KWAN YEW.
- 2. ZAKARIA SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITHOUT AN AGENDA AND THAT A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT DURING THE MEETING AND HE ADMITTED WITH A SMILE THAT HE DID NOT KNOW YET ALL OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED OR WHAT WAS SAID, AND NOTED THAT THIS WAS A RECURRING PROBLEM IN HIGH LEVEL "FOUR EYES" MEETINGS.
- 3. HE DID KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN CORDIAL AND AGREED WITH MY OBSERVATION THAT SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA RELATIONS HAD SHOWN STEADY IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR. ZAKARIA WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN HIS VIEW THE BITTERNESS OF THE 1965 SEPARATION AND THE FRICTIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SUCCEEDING YEARS HAVE NOW FADED INTO THE PAST AND THAT

RELATIONS WERE NOW "NORMAL." CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITHIN ASEAN, HE WENT ON, IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT IN THESE RELATIONS, BUT THE HISTORIC ASSOCIATION AND THE MANY HUMAN, PERSONAL TIES CREATED A SPECIAL KIND OF CAUSEWAY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: THE ABSENCE OF RANCOR IN MALAYSIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SINGAPORE IS IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO THOSE PREVAILING DURING MY PREVIOUS TOUR IN THIS COUNTRY A DECADE AGO. MALAYSIA'S HORIZONS HAVE BROADENED, THE GROWTH OF CONFIDENCE HAS DISPELLED RESENTMENTS GENERATED BY FEELINGS OF INFERIORITY, AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME HAS MELLOWED THE PRINCIPAL ACTORS. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, MY, SN, ASEAN, (ZAKARIA BIN HAJI MOHAMED ALI), (LEE KWAN YEW)
To: STATE

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